

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made to the Specification to correct the stated informalities.

Please replace paragraph 71 with the following paragraph:

[0071] The client 108, programs 340a-340n and/or interface mechanism 320 may obtain, select and/or assign a unique network identifier for a program 340a-340n or user at various times. In one embodiment, the client 108 may obtain one or more network identifiers upon booting or starting of the client 108. In another embodiment, the network identifier for a user may be obtained when the user logs into the client 108 or otherwise starts a user session. In one embodiment, the program 340a-340n and interface mechanism obtains, selects, and assigns a network identifier to the program 340a-340n upon establishment of or starting of the program 340a-340n. In another embodiment, the network identifier for the program 340a-340n is not obtained, selected or assigned until the program makes a call to the socket library ~~322~~³²⁴. In other cases, the network identifier assigned to a program 340a-340n or a user of the client 308 may be released or returned at any point after is no longer needed by the interface mechanism 320 or the program 340a-340n. One ordinarily skilled in the art will recognize the many variations upon which a network identifier may be obtained, selected and/or assigned to a program 340a-340n or a user of the client 108 and in other cases returned to or released from the pool of network identifiers 330.

Please replace paragraph 72 with the following paragraph:

[0072] In an exemplary embodiment, the interface mechanism 320 locks in, or binds, a user or program 340a-340n to one of the network identifiers 330 by intercepting and modifying calls made to the socket library 322. Since there is typically a single TCP stack 324 with one IP address assigned to the client 108, applications usually do not specify an IP address of the client 108 in API calls to the socket library 322. The IP address of the client 108 is a well-known IP address identified in one global name space of the TCP stack 324. By intercepting and modifying

socket library 322 API calls, the interface mechanism 320 can apply a specific network identifier to the API call instead of the socket library 322 using the IP address and/or host name assigned to the client 108 and already known by the TCP stack 324. After intercepting a socket library 322 ~~320~~-API call, the interface mechanism 320 can apply a unique network identifier to the socket library ~~320~~-322 API call so that a network identifier is applied in making the API call. The interface mechanism 320 will apply the unique network identifier associated with the program 340a-340n or associated with the user of the program 340a-340n making the socket library 322 API call.